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its political connection with England was constantly a disturbing factor, interfering with the plans of the English government. Despite persistent efforts, it could not be moulded into the proper economic shape. It remained always a centre of disharmony, out of accord with the spirit of British imperialism until ultimately, when events were favorable, its secession and that of the other continental colonies disrupted the old commercial empire.

To make this point still clearer the author draws for us a most interesting parallel between Gaul in the Roman Empire and New England in the British (pp. 235-236).

The only disappointing feature of Mr. Beer's study is the fact that he has failed to give us separate chapters on the tobacco and sugar industries like the one on the slave trade at the close of the first volume. This would have involved some repetition, for these industries are treated partially in the chapters on the several plantation colonies. But surely one has a right to expect some comprehensive survey of the legislation which regulated the production and commerce of such important products and some general statement of the results in the colonies producing them. It is only by a laborious use of the index that one is able to get at these general results for himself. Then perhaps a closing chapter should have been added containing a general survey and summary. A scholar's work is never complete until he has in some large, general way made a synthesis of his results. This Mr. Beer has failed to do.

After the appearance of the volumes promised for the period 1689-1754, we shall have from the same pen a most complete and scholarly history of the old colonial system. It will stand as one of the few real contributions made by American historians of this generation.

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An Industrial History of the American People. By J. R. H. MOORE. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1913. Pp. xiii, 496. \$1.25.)

This volume is primarily an enterprise in pedagogy. The author's purpose is to interest and instruct high-school students rather than to write history. Accordingly he has selected those features of the economic life of the American people which seem to him best suited to his purpose and has traced them through the course of our history. There are chapters on the fisheries, the fur trade, the lumber industry, the domestic problem, by which he

means the problem of securing a supply of laborers, on agriculture, commerce and currency, and colonial government. These have to do almost entirely with the colonial period and make up somewhat more than half of the volume. The remainder covers the period of our national history and is arranged in five chapters discussing the city problem, agriculture in the nineteenth century, the money question, manufacturing in the nineteenth century, and transportation. Obviously, such a plan is but poorly adapted to give a correct general view of the economic life of the American people. It is difficult to make out the economic situation of the country at any particular time and to distinguish the influences which produced that situation.

The author shows a wide knowledge of the facts of our economic history, but has not chosen a good arrangement for setting them forth. Many matters are treated in chapters with whose general subject they have but a remote connection. Thus the tariff policy of the federal government is dealt with chiefly in the chapter on agriculture in the nineteenth century, and immigration in the one on the city problem. Nowhere is there a thorough consideration of the influence of the tariff policy upon the growth of manufactures, nor of immigration upon labor problems, either in the early period when the difficulty was to create a wage-earning class or in more recent times when the problem is to protect that class. To a large extent the same criticism holds true of the treatment of England's commercial policy toward the colonies, and of the whole subject of slavery. The author has no conception whatever of the importance of negro slavery in colonial history, since he confines his attention to the continental colonies and never considers the whole commercial empire of which they formed a part.

These defects are largely due to the fact that economic history and economic theory appear to be entirely divided in the author's mind. Economic theory attempts to explain the process by which wealth is produced and shared as income by a community under present conditions. Economic history should describe and explain that process as it has existed in a particular country during the different stages of its development. Economic theory should therefore serve as a guide to the economic historian. No one is likely to comprehend the economic life of any people in the past who has not thoroughly studied present conditions and mastered the science which attempts to explain them. The author disregards this connection altogether. He undertakes to make clear, this com-

plex, economic process among the American people, with all the problems to which it has given rise during the course of our history, to students who have not even an elementary knowledge of economic science. The success of the project seems to me more than doubtful. The book may interest high-school students and make them familiar with some phases of the economic activity of our people—indeed it must be said that it is decidedly more readable than any similar work which has yet appeared on the subject; but it is hardly calculated to lead the persons for whom it was written to “weigh and consider” so as to become “thoughtful students of men and events.”

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English Industries of the Middle Ages. Being an Introduction to the Industrial History of Medieval England. By L. F. SALZMANN. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1913. Pp. xi, 260. \$2.00.)

The author describes mining, quarrying, metal working, pottery, cloth making, leather working, and brewing, “showing as far as possible their chief centres, their chronological development, the conditions and the methods of working.” He excludes agriculture from his definition of industry, though including wool growing and fishing. He omits the building industry, for which he had “collected a great mass of material,” because the “material available was so exceedingly technical, the obscurity of the details so greatly in excess of their value when elucidated, as to render such a section rather a weariness and a stumbling-block to the student than a help.” This self-restraint is indicative of the author’s attitude and the character of the book, which is intended to be useful and not a mere monument to zeal in research. In the last chapter he attempts to outline “the general principles that govern the control of industry.” This chapter is necessarily less novel and less important than the other sections.

The book is extremely useful. It is a pioneer volume, and only one of the subjects, tin mining, had been adequately treated for the medieval period; for the other lines of industry, such a summary is, as far as my knowledge extends, not accessible anywhere else. It is also a guide to the best of the printed material for each topic. In particular, it indicates the wealth of information to be found in the *Victoria County Histories*, which have not as yet been